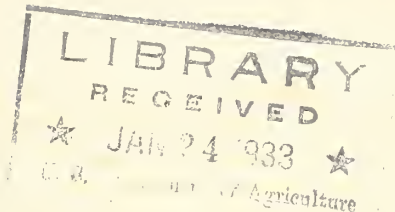


## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





1932 WEATHER AND CROPS

A radio talk by J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, Wednesday, January 4, 1933, by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations.

--O--

How-do-you-do, folks. From month to month during the past year, we have talked about the weather, giving you a birdseye view of just what was happening in different parts of the country as the year progressed. All of us talk about the weather a good deal, probably because there is something very unique and unusual about it; do you know of anything else that is constantly with you every day throughout your entire life? Now that our 1932 weather has passed into history, we shall spend a few moments with you today taking stock, as it were, of the year, as a whole.

As to temperature, I think it might be well to remind you, in passing, that for a long time, a quarter of a century or more, there has been a decided tendency to warmer weather in most of the United States. In fact, this is true for a large part of the Northern Hemisphere. I do not mean that year by year the weather gradually has become warmer and warmer, but rather that the general trend in temperature has been upward, notwithstanding occasional setbacks by cold in winter and cool weather in summer. For example, the average annual temperature at Milwaukee, Wis., for the 20 years ending with 1931, which, by the way, was one of the warmest years during the past century, was more than 2° higher than for the 20 years ending with 1890. Also the 20-year average date of first killing frost in fall up to 1931 was some two weeks later than a like average up to 1893. You should bear in mind that these are 20-year averages that we are talking about, and not records for individual years.

Following the extremely warm year of 1931, January and February of 1932 brought one of the warmest like periods ever known in the central and eastern parts of the country, but these months were decidedly cold in the more western states. For the spring season, March to May, the temperature averaged very nearly normal in most sections of the country, the departures from normal ranging largely from about 1° below to 1° or 2° above. The summer was warmer than normal rather generally, the mean temperatures ranging from about normal in the far West and the extreme Northeast, to from 2° to 4° above normal in the interior states. For the country, as a whole, the average temperature for the fall was just about normal, being near normal or somewhat above east of the Mississippi River and somewhat below to the westward. December averaged decidedly below normal in temperature nearly everywhere west of the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes, and above normal in the more eastern states. Much of the month was extremely cold over the western half of the country. This morning, we completed a chart showing the average temperature for the entire year of 1932, for all states, as compared with the normal. The year, as a whole, followed the tendency of recent years by showing average temperatures above normal rather generally. The Rocky Mountain States and western Great Basin being the only areas having below-normal temperatures for the year, except for a few localities in the Southwest,

(over)

Temperatures during the year were, on the whole, rather favorable for crops, and all staple farm products matured without serious damage. However, because of the extreme mildness of the winter, by the first of March vegetables and early fruits were prematurely advanced over the southern half of the country, and the cold wave the first part of that month caused heavy damage to these crops south of the Potomac, Ohio, and lower Missouri Valleys, extending even to the extreme lower Rio Grande Valley and the interior of southern Florida. This is one of the dangers of a warm winter, the premature advancement of early vegetation, with the probability of later frost damage. There was also more or less harm by frost to truck crops in the Southern States during November. Otherwise, no serious frost damage occurred during the year.

Rainfall in 1932 was fairly well distributed, and was sufficient for crop needs in most sections. As you know, summer rains, as a rule, are erratic, and a year is almost unknown when more or less seriously droughty conditions do not develop in one or more sections of the country. In 1932 there was a rather severe summer drought in the Atlantic States, and precipitation was markedly deficient in the Western Great Plains, from Nebraska and eastern Wyoming southward to Texas. Generous rains in the fall months relieved the eastern drought, but it continues unfavorably dry in the Plains area. About the middle of December, unusually widespread snows occurred, our map of December 19, showing the ground covered over fully four-fifths of the United States. The greatest depth of snow on the ground reported, so far this winter, is 100 inches, more than 8 feet, at Crater Lake, Oregon. This report came in yesterday. How would you like the job of clearing your front walk of an 8-foot snow. I wish you one and all a prosperous New Year.